

March 11, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

9248 '99 MAR 17 10:57

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and
Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding
labeling of irradiated foods:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by
irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display
panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed
in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international
symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on
a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by FDA to be truthful and not
misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation"
should be retained. Any phrase involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because
pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a material fact of food processing. The
requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any
time in the future. The material fact of processing remains. Even if some consumers
become familiar with the radura, new consumers (e.g., young people, immigrants) will
not be. The symbol should be clearly understandable at the point of purchase for every
one. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been
irradiated.

I urge you to place the comments received on the Internet so that the public can be
informed about who is participating in this comment process.

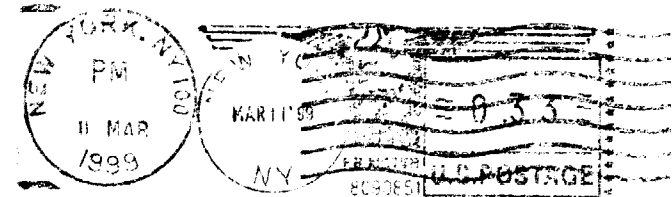
Sincerely,


Tanya L. Polkowska

98N-1038

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